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Washington
D. C.

VISITORS' GUIDE

TO

Mount Vernon.

A visit to the National Capital is but half made unless it includes the home and tomb of Washington — EVERETT.

WASHINGTON, D C.

PRICE, 25 CTS.

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THE TOMB OF WASHINGTON.

VISITORS' GUIDE

TO

MOUNT VERNON

Washington was the greatest of good men and the best of great men.—EDWARD EVERETT.

FIFTH EDITION.

REVISED AND IMPROVED.

Johnston, Elizabeth Bry

GIBSON BROTHERS, PRINTERS,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

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An extensive traveller and witty friend of the writer sweepingly declares that "Guide-books contain everything which one does not wish to know."

With the hope that the brevity of the following pages will save this little Guide from even the suspicion of conveying undesirable information, the possessor is respectfully invited to peruse it first, and render judgment afterwards.

It is designed simply as a practical assistant to the visitor to Mount Vernon, all merely patriotic or poetic sentimentality being purposely avoided. E. B. J.

Johns [illegible]
Gift.

JUN 20 [illegible]

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MOUNT VERNON.

The home of Washington is situated on the right bank of the Potomac, seventeen miles south of the Capital, and may be approached by land or water. Formerly, in cool autumn weather, it was a pleasant drive thither from Washington, across the famous Long Bridge, *viâ* the interesting old city of Alexandria, which, in the solemn silence of its deserted streets and warehouses, and with its many dilapidated, moss-covered buildings, reminds the traveller of cities in foreign lands.

From Alexandria, (about midway,) the road runs partly over what once constituted the Washington Estate, a princely domain of 8,000 acres. However, very few persons take this route, for daily, (Sundays excepted,)

THE W. W. CORCORAN,

a new and elegant boat, built expressly for the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of the Union, leaves the Sixth-street wharf at 10 A. M. for Mount Vernon, returning at half-past three, which enables visitors to pass several hours among the historic associations of the resting-place of Washington; and, if desirable, to make connection with the evening trains leaving the Capital.

The W. W. Corcoran is commanded by Capt. L. L. Blake, a most agreeable, efficient, and considerate officer—a gentleman who neglects nothing needful for

the comfort or that may add to the pleasure of the passengers. The steamer is well adapted for the purpose, being fast, safe, and comfortable, and handsomely and tastefully furnished. The pilot-house is surmounted by a bust of Washington, carved in wood, after the portrait of Robert Edge Pine, and on each wheel-house is the river-front view of Mount Vernon, also in wood carving. The arrival at Mount Vernon is announced by the tolling bell.

At the Mount Vernon Landing guests are courteously received by Supt. J. McH. Hollingsworth, who gives intelligent and patient attention to every question.

The number of persons who take this trip during the year is very great, coming from every State of the Republic, and from all civilized portions of the world. Even the Indian delegations are unwilling to leave the Capital without visiting Mount Vernon. It is an impressive scene to witness them pass before the door of the tomb, push their tawny hands between the iron bars, and pronounce in solemn dignity their characteristic salutation, "How!"

Leaving the Capital, the first object upon the left bank of the Potomac is the

UNITED STATES ARSENAL,

the grounds of which are beautiful and well kept. After its establishment in the early part of the century it served several purposes; at one time being a military station, and afterwards a sort of supply depot. It was destroyed by the British in 1814, a number of whom

were killed by the explosion of a quantity of powder secreted in a well near the quarters. After it was rebuilt it was for some time under the command of M. Villard, a French officer who came to the United States with Gen. Lafayette. In 1864 an explosion of cartridges and signal-rockets in the workshop instantly killed twenty-one young girls, to whose memory a handsome monument was erected in the Congressional Cemetery by the citizens of Washington. A sadder tragedy even than this casts its shadow here—the culminating horror of the assassination of President Lincoln.

Just across the Eastern Branch, which flows into the Potomac below the Arsenal, is the

GOVERNMENT INSANE ASYLUM;

and on the Virginia shore, not far distant, the Episcopal Seminary of Virginia forms a prominent feature of the landscape. This is often mistaken for "Fairfax Court-House," which, though near, is not visible from the river.

Below the junction, on the Maryland side, is Giesboro Point, which during the late war was used by the Government as a corral for horses. A little beyond are the Naval Powder Magazines, which were removed from the vicinity of the city in consequence of the danger to the Capitol in the event of an explosion. Below Giesboro Point is the river terminus of the extension of the Baltimore and Ohio R.R.

The first landing is at the town of

one of the oldest and most important ports of the Colonies. It was first known as "Hunting Creek Warehouse;" afterwards as "Belhaven." In 1749 it was organized and governed by a board of trustees in pursuance of an act of the General Assembly of the Colony of Virginia, and fourteen years later we find George Washington a member of this board.

In 1762 it was enlarged by the addition of lots from the farms belonging to the Wests, Dades, and Alexanders, and in 1779 incorporated as a town and named Alexandria in compliment to the largest landholders. In 1801 it was ceded to the General Government as a portion of the District of Columbia. In 1814 it was captured by the British, and in 1846 it was retroceded to the State of Virginia.

Alexandria was chiefly settled by the English of the higher classes, who, like other colonists, indicated their affection for the mother country in the names of its streets, such as King, Prince, Princess, Duke, and Royal. Here, Washington had his chief social, religious and Masonic relations, and in his will he cemented these ties by endowing a free school "for the purpose of educating orphan children, or the children of such poor and indigent persons as are unable to accomplish it with their own means." Washington cast here his first vote in 1754, and his last in 1799.

One can scarcely realize that this town ever rivalled Baltimore in commerce, but Bishop Meade says "so promising was it at the close of the war that its claims

Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia.

were weighed in the balance with those of Washington as the seat of the National Government. It is thought but for the unwillingness of Washington to seem partial to Virginia, Alexandria would have been the chosen spot, and that on the first range of hills overlooking the town the public buildings would have been erected." The Common Council of this town were the only official mourners at Washington's funeral.

From the Potomac can be seen the old-style spire of

CHRIST CHURCH,

of which Washington was vestryman. This Church was built in 1783, of bricks brought from England. Washington's large square pew is an object of interest to visitors, but the silver plate bearing his name was years since stolen. Recently two memorials in white marble have been placed on either side of the chancel —one to George Washington and the other to Robert E. Lee, who was also a vestryman. On one of the principal streets leading from the river is a large hotel. Part of the rear of this building, a low section, with three dormer windows, is the old "Carey House," which was occupied as the

HEADQUARTERS OF GEN. BRADDOCK.

Here, in 1755, George Washington was appointed his aide-de-camp. The room in which was held the Council of the Governors of Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, Maryland, and Virginia, remains unchanged. At this time Col. Washington made his last appeal to

Braddock before the Council, to forego civilized methods of warfare with the Indians, previous to the projected march on Fort DuQuesne, and the disastrous engagement of Monongahela. In this neighborhood is the Marshall House, rebuilt upon the site of the hotel in which Col. Ellsworth was shot in 1861.

A short distance from Alexandria, at the mouth of Hunting Creek, is Jones' Point, where a Government light-house was built in 1855.

FORT FOOTE,

on the Maryland side, is the second landing. It is situated on a high bluff one hundred feet above the water, six miles below Washington. This work, which is an enclosed barbette, was constructed during the civil war for the defence of Alexandria, and was dismantled October 18, 1878.

FORT WASHINGTON

is the last landing made before reaching Mount Vernon, and is four miles distant therefrom.

Fort Washington was first called Warburton, and its availability as a point of fortification was suggested to General Washington as he viewed the elevated spot from the eastern piazza of his home, about the year 1790. It was blown up and abandoned in 1814 by our own forces, when the British troops passed up the river and captured Alexandria. From Fort Washington there is a fine view of the Capitol, the grand dome seeming to touch the sky. It was here that an Indian

was so impressed by the beauty of that wonder of architecture that he exclaimed: "White man did not build it; Great Spirit made it!"

From the same point we obtain our first glimpse of

MOUNT VERNON.

Here the river is two miles wide, and the Mansion House has a stately look, being situated about two hundred feet above the water. The tolling of the bell and the hoisting of the flag announce to the passengers that they are approaching the Home of Washington. Immediately under the bluff upon which the Mansion stands is the reservation of a few acres, which was formerly used as a deer park. There is a proposal to re-establish this park, and a gentleman from Virginia has generously offered to stock it with deer. This, with many other restorations and improvements, is only a question of time. On the river front of the deer park is a landing of historic interest. The commander of a British vessel during the Revolution sent a boat's crew ashore and demanded provisions, threatening in event of refusal to burn the mansion. The frightened overseer complied with the demand, thus preventing the destruction of the house; but Washington wrote him a letter of reproof, which is still on record, ordering, in case of another attack, "to let everything be burned rather than give aid or comfort to the enemy." The main part of the wharf was constructed by Washington, but it has been extended in consequence of the increasing shallowness of the river. From this wharf

he used to load his barges with flour ground at his own mill, the famous brand, "George Washington, Mount Vernon," being so favorably known at the custom-houses as to pass without inspection.

Visitors are met at the landing by the courteous Superintendent, and proceed up a gentle acclivity to

THE TOMB

of him "who was first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

To the left of the road is a high, well-wooded hill-side, abounding with sweet-briar, trailing arbutus, and other flowers. On the right is an open park, extending beyond the house. About half way up, in a small ravine, are several weeping willows, brought from the grave of Napoleon, at St. Helena. These vividly recall the immortal epigrammatic order issued by the First Consul to his army on the death of Washington, beginning with—

"WASHINGTON, THE FRIEND OF LIBERTY, IS DEAD!"

The Tomb is a plain brick structure, familiar, through multiplied prints, to every school-boy in the land. It was built by Washington's executors, and in pursuance of a clause in his will designating the location, and saying, "it shall be built of brick." The front of the Tomb is unpretending, with wide, arching gateway and double iron gates, above which, upon a plain marble slab, is this inscription:

"WITHIN THIS ENCLOSURE REST THE REMAINS OF
"GENERAL GEORGE WASHINGTON."

The anteroom to the vault is about twelve feet square, and here are seen the sarcophagi. The one on the right contains the remains of General Washington, and that on the left the remains of Martha, his wife. In the vault at the rear repose about thirty relatives, members of the Washington. Blackburn, Corbin, Bushrod, Lewis, and Custis families.

To this vault the body of Washington was removed in 1831, in consequence of a general feeling of insecurity, a man having broken into the old tomb and stolen a skull, which he claimed to be that of Washington, but which proved to be of one of the Blackburn family.

In the winter of 1832, Congress, for the second time, made an effort to effect the removal of Washington's body to the chamber under the crypt of the Capitol, originally designed for its sepulchre.

Adams, Clay, Webster, Thomas, and even Washington's venerable biographer, Chief-Justice Marshall, earnestly endeavored to secure its removal, the centennial anniversary of Washington's birth being selected for the solemn occasion. The family, however, was firm in refusal, through respect for the well-known wish of the illustrious dead.

The body was placed in the sarcophagus, where it now rests, on the 7th of October, 1837. The door of the inner vault was then closed, and the key thrown into the Potomac.

The sarcophagi which contain the remains of Gen. Washington and his wife were presented by John

Struthers, of Philadelphia, and were wrought by his own hand, from solid blocks of Pennsylvania marble.

Over the door of the tomb, on a plain tablet, is the inscription:

"I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE. HE THAT BELIEVETH IN ME, THOUGH HE WERE DEAD, YET SHALL HE LIVE."

The sarcophagus of Mrs. Washington is perfectly plain, with the simple words:

MARTHA,
CONSORT OF WASHINGTON.
DIED MAY 21ST, 1801; AGED 71 YEARS.

The sarcophagus of Washington is also plain, being ornamented only with the United States coat of arms, upon a draped flag, under which is the single word,

WASHINGTON.

One of the talons of the eagle, in the coat of arms, was broken off during the civil war by some eager relic-hunter, which incident suggested the outer and higher gate. This was the only outrage committed at Mount Vernon, though the unarmed pickets of both armies often met before the tomb—here, and here only, met as brothers. At the servants' request they left their arms at whatever point they entered the sacred domain, which was frequently three-quarters of a mile away, at the old Porter's Lodge.

The Old Tomb, 1824.

THE OLD TOMB.

The original Tomb of Washington is seen to the right of the path to the house, and is surrounded by a white railing. This spot commands an extended view of the river, but has not the secluded quiet of the one now occupied, which may have been the reason why Washington desired the removal of the family vault, which was not effected for thirty-eight years, until it had been entered and desecrated.

When Lafayette was "the Nation's Guest" in 1824–'25, a military guard was his escort from Alexandria to visit this tomb—an event quaintly described by M. Levasseur, one of his suite. "The cannon of the fort thundering anew, announce that Lafayette rendered homage to the ashes of Washington. * * * Simple and modest as he was during life, the tomb of the citizen-hero is scarcely perceived amid the sombre cypresses by which it is surrounded; a vault slightly elevated and sodded over, a wooden door without inscriptions, some withered and some green garlands, indicate to the traveller who visits this spot the place where rest in peace the puissant arms which broke the chains of this country. * * * At the door of the vault Mr. Custis presented Gen. Lafayette with a massive gold ring, containing some of the hair of the great man."

"*THE WASHINGTON OAK.*"

There stands near the path to the house a magnificent primeval oak, measuring twelve feet in circum-

ference. Its wide shelter was a favorite resting-place of the retired chieftain, on returning from the wharf, where he was in the habit of personally superintending the loading of his barges. The "Washington Oak" has lost some of its glory in a severe storm, but the new growth is rapid and very beautiful.

OLD BRICK BARN.

The first building reached after the ascent is a large old barn, erected in 1733 by Lawrence Washington, the brother from whom Washington inherited this estate. This commodious store-house was built of bricks brought from England. It has recently been re-roofed, and is in a perfect state of preservation. It will well repay a few moments of attention, as showing that the gentlemen of the "old school" were not far behind the present time in their ideas of shelter, and that "a righteous man regardeth the life of his beast."

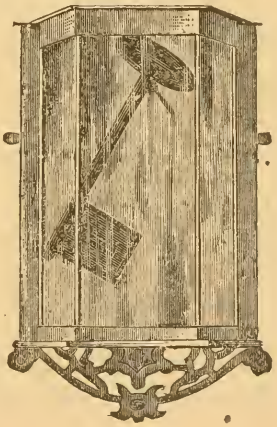
MANSION-HOUSE.

The Mansion-House is a wooden structure, the sidings of which are cut and painted to resemble stone. The central and main part was built by Lawrence Washington in 1743, and he called it "Mount Vernon," after his highly-esteemed superior officer in the British navy, the gallant Admiral Vernon. The corner-stone, with the initials "L. W.," may be seen in the cellar. This cellar is very ample, constructed according to the old-fashioned ideas of durability, and there seems no reason, with such a substantial foundation, why the building should not stand five hundred years, as well as one

The parts of the house known as the North and South extensions were added by General Washington, 1784-'5. The residence, as left by Lawrence Washington, had been termed a "villa;" as enlarged, with extensions, colonnades in front and back, by George Washington, it was dignified as a "Mansion-House." Its length is ninety-six feet and its depth thirty feet.

The east piazza extends the entire front of the house. It is fifteen feet wide and twenty-five feet high. Eight large square pillars support the roof, which is ornamented by a balustrade. It is paved with flags, brought from the Isle of Wight, which are twelve inches square and two and a half inches thick. The curved colonnades on the west side lead from the extensions to the family kitchen on one side, and on the other side to the state kitchen.

KEY OF THE BASTILE.



Entering the main hall from the east, the first object of interest is the "Key of the Bastile," which hangs in a glass casket on the south wall.

This emblem of oppression was presented to the "great friend of Liberty" by Lafayette, immediately after the destruction of the Bastile, 1789, a compliment highly prized by Washington. In writing of it, the Marquis

said: "It is a tribute which I owe as a son to my adopted father; as an aide-de-camp to my general; as a missionary of liberty to its patriarch."

This souvenir was confided to the care of that staunch republican, Thomas Paine, who, being detained in London, consigned it to another person, together with a drawing of the Bastile, which had been ordered by Lafayette just previous to his command to demolish the old prison. Paine, in writing to Washington, very happily says: "That the principles of America opened the Bastile is not to be doubted; and, therefore, the key comes to the right place."

The quaint wood-work wainscotings and designs of cornice and ceiling of this hall and the two rooms on either side—this being the old part of the house—will attract general attention.

The old floor, being greatly worn, has recently been removed, and replaced by a substantial double floor, the under layer being of yellow pine, and the upper of solid oak with black walnut bordering. It was also deemed expedient, at the same time, to place an arch across the hall for the purpose of sustaining the upper floor, which was feared to be insecure; and the arch has been so designed as to harmonize perfectly with the wainscoting. The ponderous old brass knocker on the west door of the hall, which has been lifted by so many illustrious guests, presents a dignified individuality, markedly in contrast with the giddy, jingling bell of modern times. On each side of the step outside the door is a pair of the once indispensa-

ble "scrapers," contemporary in use with the stately knocker. Near the door is a neat memorial which preserves the names and amounts donated towards the sum total of one thousand dollars for the "Restoration of the Colonnades and Piazza of Mount Vernon." "A collection was made for restoring the same during the years 1874 and '75. This money was mostly given in the names of the young, that the rising generation might have a deeper interest in preserving this Home of the Father of his Country." Underneath hangs a fac-simile of Lafayette's agreement to serve in the Continental army, made in 1776 with Silas Deane, American Minister at Paris. It may not be generally known that in this document Lafayette agreed to serve without remuneration upon condition that he should be allowed to return to his own country whenever called by his family or King. Lafayette was then only eighteen, and his family would not consent to his accepting service in our army unless he received the rank of Major-General.

THE EAST PARLOR, OR MUSIC ROOM,

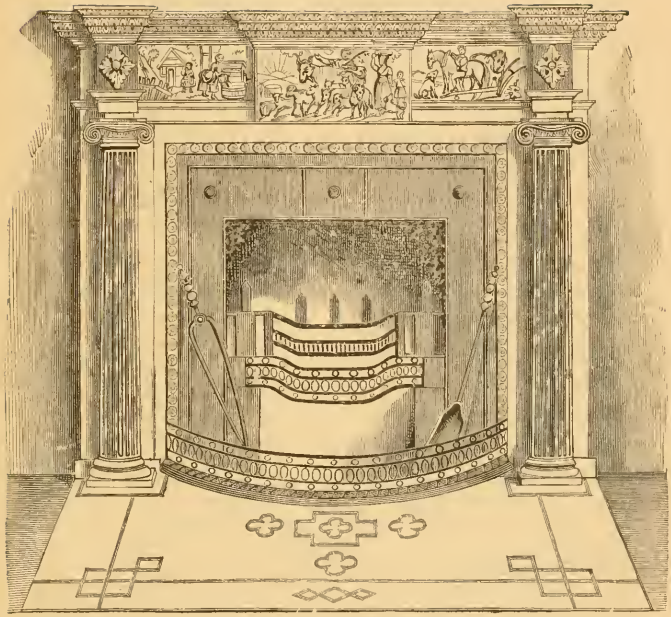
has been chosen by Ohio, and tastefully furnished in the style of the Revolution through the efforts of the Vice-Regent. Over the hall-door is the coat-of-arms of that State, a wood carving, conspicuous in which is the nut and leaf of the significant buckeye. The dainty design of the ceiling and the delicate tints of the walls have been faithfully restored. The handsome cabinet *tête à tête* and chairs were manufactured in the Queen City. Here also is the harpsichord, Washington's bri-

dal present to Eleanor Custis, which was presented to the Association by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Lorenzo Lewis. It was an elegant piece of furniture a century ago, and cost a thousand dollars. The large case of relics has been removed from this room. In this case are several autograph letters, one of them to Col. Jonathan Trumbull, announcing the approaching marriage of Nelly Custis; Washington's silver-hilted dress sword with the name of John Clark on the hand guard, and a silver-mounted russia-leather scabbard; an English flag; Lafayette's Masonic apron; Washington's compass and tripod, used in his early surveys, and six water buckets with the name of "George Washington" painted on them in large letters. Here, too, is a silver-mounted rosewood flute that once belonged to Washington, recently given by a relative, the Vice-Regent of West Virginia, and one of the famous Vernon medals, struck in commemoration of the capture of Porto Bello, which was found June 5, 1876, in a garden in Dover, Delaware, and an engraved portrait of the Admiral, after a painting by T. Bardwell, which bears the following inscription:

"The Honorable Edward Vernon, Esq., Vice-Admiral of the "Blue. Commander-in-chief of all his Majesty's ships in the "West Indies."

"To the Right Honorable Lord Mayor, the Court of Alder- "men, and ye Common Council of ye City of London, this plate "is humbly dedicated by their most obedient servant, John "Taber."

The large globe was the property of Washington, and in a frame is a portion of a French Revolutionary bed-spread, with illustrations of the storming of the Bastile.



The Mantel, State Dining-Room.

From the east parlor, the north extension is entered. This is the old

STATE DINING-ROOM,

which has been selected by the Vice-Regent of New York for that State, and for its day was a princely *salon*. Lafayette, Rochambeau, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, Patrick Henry, Richard Henry Lee, Dr. Craik, Aaron Burr, the artists Houdon, Charles Wilson Peale, Trumbull and Pine, and many of the great Generals of the Revolution, honored it with their presence. The high ceiling is white, ornamented with stucco-work. The design comprises a large circular centre-piece, bordered with an arabesque pattern. Irregular-shaped panels complete the oblong, and in each panel are implements and emblems of agriculture. Enclosing all is a rich border of intertwining grape and laurel. The walls, of beautiful French gray, are finished with a deep indented frieze, decorated with festoons of leaves, and bordered with a narrow carving, below which is a band of delicate green, with white stucco ornaments.

An elaborately carved mantel-piece of Carrara marble, with Sienna marble columns, is the chief ornament of this room. This exquisite work has been attributed to Canova. It was wrought in Italy, and presented to Washington by Mr. Samuel Vaughan, an English gentleman. On its passage from Italy it fell into the hands of French pirates, who, upon discovering that it was intended for George Washington, sent it uninjured

to its destination. It has received less respectful treatment from unknown land pirates, for its delicately carved figures and ornaments have been mutilated and broken by relic-hunters. Strange to say, this and other kinds of reckless desecration are frequently indulged in by persons who visit Mount Vernon, in spite of the watchful care of the Superintendent and his associates.

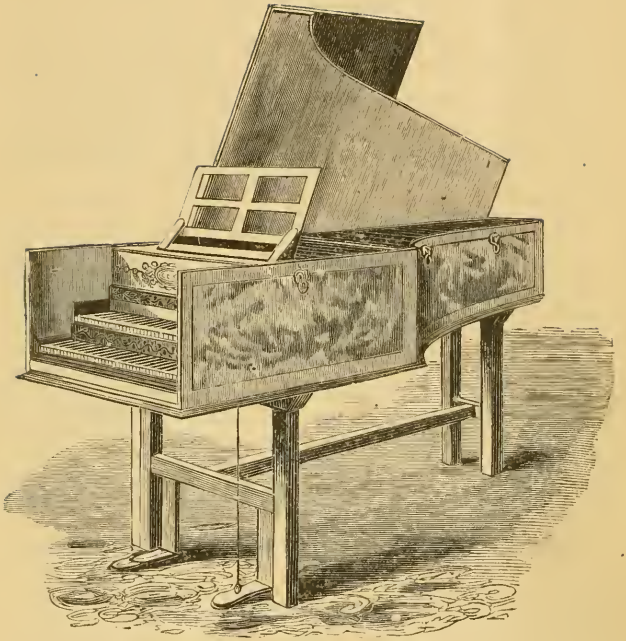
On a massive rosewood table, under a large glass case, with heavy silver mountings, in the centre of the room, is a

MODEL OF THE BASTILE,

cut from the granite stones of the demolished prison. It was presented to Washington by Lafayette. Accompanying it is a plan of the interior of the prison, with its approaches, which affords a trustworthy study of the celebrated old structure.

The large plain arm-chair now kept in this room came over on the MAYFLOWER. The two elegant mirrors, more than a hundred and fifty years old, were given by one of the Van Rensselaer family.

On the mantel once stood three rare porcelain vases, made in India and ornamented in London, which were sent to Washington by the same gentleman who presented the mantel-piece. These "China Jars," as they were called in the sworn list taken by the appraisers of the furniture, and many other ornaments and objects of interest, which were originally at Mount Vernon, are now in the Patent Office. It would be a satisfaction to the public if these and other articles of furniture



THE HARPSICHORD.

and ornament could be restored to their places in the Mansion.

The fine specimen of sea-weed on the mantel has been there at least half a century, having been placed in its present position by John Augustine Washington. The liquor-case in this room was presented by Lord Fairfax, between whom and Washington there existed a peculiar friendship. Washington was only sixteen years old when he received a commission from Lord Fairfax, who was quite an old man, to make surveys of his property beyond the Blue Ridge. The young surveyor was so successful in this undertaking that he shortly afterwards received the appointment of Public Surveyor.

The military equipments seen in this room were used by Washington in Braddock's campaign. Over one door hangs a finely executed copy of Stuart's Washington, and over another a copy of Trumbull's portrait, representing him in Continental uniform, both pictures being the work of Lambdin, a Philadelphia artist. Beneath the latter hangs a frame containing an admirable eulogy, two copies of which were presented recently to the ladies of the Association by Gen. Robert C. Schenck.

"This tribute to the memory of George Washington was written at his grave in 1833 by Dr. Andrew Reed, an English philanthropist, and left by him with the ladies of the General's family. Dr. Reed asks: 'How could the people suffer Mount Vernon to pass into ruin? Surely it is a thing impossible!'"

WASHINGTON,
The Brave, The Wise, The Good;
WASHINGTON,
Supreme in War, in Council, and in Peace;
WASHINGTON,
Valiant without Ambition; Discreet without Fear; Confident without Presumption;
WASHINGTON,
In Disaster, Calm; In Success, Moderate; In All, Himself;
WASHINGTON,
The Hero, The Patriot, The Christian;
The Father of Nations, The Friend of Mankind;
who,
When he had won all, renounced all,
and sought,
In the Bosom of his Family and of Nature,
Retirement,
And in the Hope of Religion,
Immortality.

On the west side of the room is the famous equestrian portrait of Washington, by Rembrandt Peale, known as

"*WASHINGTON BEFORE YORKTOWN*,"

which was presented to the ladies of the "Mount Vernon Association" in June, 1873, by the heirs of that distinguished artist. It is a rich possession, and a very elegant contribution. Few other pictures of the great man elicited so much approval from his contemporaries, and this valuable canvas could not be placed amid more harmonious associations. It is exceedingly

well colored, and the drawing is full of vigor and grace. It presents the Captain in the zenith of his glory, and at a moment when all the force of the commander is called forth in the act of rebuking a subordinate for perilous neglect of duty. The accompanying portraits of Hamilton, Lafayette, Knox, Lincoln, and Rochambeau greatly enhance the picture. The elegant walnut frame of this painting was made from a tree grown upon the farm of Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution. A fine oil-painting of the New York coat of arms has recently been contributed by the Legislature of that State.

THE WEST PARLOR

has been selected by the State of Illinois, and will be handsomely and appropriately furnished. The cornices and brass supports for the curtains date from the time of Lawrence Washington, as also the small painting of Admiral Vernon's engagement before Carthagena, which hangs over the mantel. This is sadly discolored by age, and a piece has been torn from the corner, (by *a woman*, I am sorry to say,) but the fragment was recovered, and it is hoped that the painting can be restored. The ornate wood-carving which frames this painting is an elegant specimen of that style of work. It rises in the form of an arch, of which the centre piece is a representation of the coat of arms and crest of the Washington family. In this room are an old piano and stool from Connecticut, reputed to have belonged to the family of General Knox;

also, a gilt-framed mirror, with a memorial device above the glass, and the initials and date, "G. W., 1804."

The selection of a room by a State confers the privilege of placing in it whatever mementos or furniture may be contributed from that State, as having historic association. This opens a repository for valuable relics, and places them where they will be well cared for, and more generally seen than elsewhere; besides giving additional interest to the old home of Washington. Each State will probably have its coat of arms above the door of the room selected by it.

The door on the south side opens into the

FAMILY DINING-ROOM,

now used as a general reception-room. On the wall is an engraving of "Washington, on the field of Trenton, receiving a salute," which was executed by Wm. Holl, from the painting by John Faed; also several small pictures and two fine engravings of General and Mrs. Washington, after Stuart's well known portraits. These were presented by Edward Everett to Miss Cunningham, "The Southern Matron," whose pen assisted Mr. Everett in first awaking an interest in the purchase and preservation of Mount Vernon.

A valuable and interesting India ink portrait of the Earl of Chatham hangs over the mantel in the very place where Washington hung a large print depicting the death of that distinguished and earnest friend of the oppressed Colonies. The portrait is thus inscribed and dated: "The Right Honorable William Pitt, Esq'r.,

One of His Majesty's most Hon'ble Privy Council, 20th April, 1766." The sideboard, with knife and spoon cases, stood in this room in the time of Lawrence Washington, and were bequeathed by Martha Washington to G. W. P. Custis, and by his daughter, Mrs. Robert E. Lee, presented to the Ladies' Association.

Next east of this is the

COUNCIL-ROOM,

Washington's former study or library, before the extension was built. It is probable the description he gave his brother Lawrence—then in the West Indies—of the battle of Monongahela, was penned in this little room. It is a spirited description of a battle, and remarkable, as written by one of the chief actors in it, without mentioning his own name. It is accepted as the only authentic account of that sanguinary engagement written in America.

Over the mantel is a portrait in oil, by Lambdin, of Miss Pamela Cunningham, the devoted first Regent. There are also some cosy old chairs, a very beautifully embroidered screen, a quaint old buffet, and a pair of antique andirons. The council-table formerly belonged to a brother of Washington; this and the cover —on which is embroidered the Washington coat of arms—were presented through the Vice-Regent of West Virginia.

THE LIBRARY.

Through a small hall, the Library, or south extension, is reached. This room was designed by Washington, and is so plain as to seem to have no design at all. It is square, and has two large windows opening to the floor, which lead to the south portico. This portico has very recently been replaced, and so very exactly does it resemble an old structure that it is thought by many to be the original one. From it a fine view is had of the river and the lawn, containing both tombs.

In the Library is a large case with glass doors, filled with Mount Vernon records, which can here be purchased, and should be read all over the country in order that the people may duly comprehend the efforts of the energetic ladies who have secured Mount Vernon sacred to the memory of Washington forever.

The Library is deceptive; it is not so meaningless, with its simple wainscoting, as it seems. It is a room within rooms—in a word, three sides of it are closets; seventeen are known—panel closets for silver, little closets in corners near the floor and near the ceiling—closets within closets.

There is none of the original furniture here, and nothing of interest save a fine plaster-cast of the head of Lafayette—probably a copy of the bust ordered by the Virginia Legislature, 1786, from Houdon, for the Capitol at Richmond.

In the days of Washington this room was by far the most attractive in the mansion. Aside from the interest connected with such a man's study, here were bestowed some of the rarest relics of the Revolutionary struggle—swords, pistols, guns, the compass made by David Rittenhouse, spy-glasses, sashes, velvet saddle-housings, and numerous other articles of personal property associated with different campaigns. Here stood the "tambour secretary and circular chair," by will devised "to my companion-in-arms and intimate friend, Dr. Craik." The "iron chest" stood in one corner—a repository of valuables; among them were the silver badge of the Order of Cincinnati, the gold badge of the

same Order, presented by the French officers, the gold medal ordered by the Continental Congress for Washington in 1776, the first medallic memorial of this country. The books, and, what were more important, the private papers, were bequeathed to his nephew, Bushrod Washington.

The bulk of the Library was purchased by the Boston Athenæum in 1849, for the sum of $5,000. A large proportion of the books have the autograph of Washington, others his book-plate. Books with his autograph are found in other libraries; one worthy of note is in the State Library at Albany, New York—a volume presented to Washington by Robert Edge Pine, containing very rare illustrations of the costumes of the British army.

STAIRWAY.

The stairway leading from the main hall is broad, but severely plain. It is divided into three sections. On the first landing is an old clock, a presentation from New Jersey.

LAFAYETTE'S ROOM.
(*New Jersey.*)

The first room on the left, opening into the upper hall, is known as the "Lafayette Room," in honor of the Marquis, who occupied it on both of his visits to Mount Vernon. It was chosen and furnished by the Vice-Regent of New Jersey for that old State. The bureau was placed there when the room was fitted up for its distinguished occupant; and the small dressing-case was in the room which Lafayette occupied at the

residence of General Elias Dayton, whom he visited at Elizabethtown, New Jersey.

Upon the walls is a small "fruit piece," embroidered in silk, a contribution by the descendant of the fair dame who so deftly worked it during Revolutionary years.

There is an engraving of Stuart's full-length portrait of Washington, from the picture which was painted for the Marquis of Lansdowne, executed by Ormsby.

There is also an engraving by Buttre, after Wollaston, from the portrait of Martha Washington, known as the "Bride of Mount Vernon." It is a wonderfully beautiful face, with the well-drawn eyes for which this artist was distinguished in his pictures of women, but is often criticised because it gives her the effect of being a tall woman, by reason of a false perspective of landscape, as she is represented as having just stepped from the piazza at Mount Vernon.

A very fine engraving by Leroux hangs over the mantel. It is from the portrait of Lafayette by Ary Scheffer. It was taken from that fine portrait of the Marquis which his artist friend painted while visiting him at La Grange, and presented to the United States Government in 1822, and now hangs in the Hall of Representatives.

The second door is the Pennsylvania Room. The furniture herein was all used by Washington. Over an old desk hangs an engraving of the sitting statue of Washington, ordered by the State of North Carolina from Canova. Washington is presented in the costume

of an old Roman, holding in his hand a stone tablet, upon which he has begun to inscribe laws, and, with his sword under his feet, he is leaving in the past the chieftain and becoming the statesman.

The inscription is—

"Giorgio Washington.

"Alla Grande Nazione degli Stati Uniti di America.

"Antonio Canova."

The small room on the east front of the hall was selected by the Vice-Regent of Delaware, and it is furnished with revolutionary relics. The coat of arms of that State is above the door. The coat of arms of Maryland, over the door on the south side of the hall, indicates the State which has chosen this room. It was formerly occupied by Eleanor Custis, and has been furnished by the Vice-Regent of Maryland, assisted by other ladies of that State. The wash-stand and one of the chairs were sent from the old Carroll seat, Doughragen Manor-House, by the grandsons of Charles Carroll of Carrollton.

Leaving this apartment, the next room is the one selected and being fitted up by the Vice-Regent of West Virginia for that State. The windows open upon the piazza, giving a wide view of the noble Potomac and the dark outline of the Maryland shore beyond. The Vice-Regent, Mrs. Ella Bassett Washington, is a descendant of the Washington and Dandridge families, and the articles of furniture which she places here are all revolutionary relics. The large handsomely carved bedstead came from Eltham, on the York river,

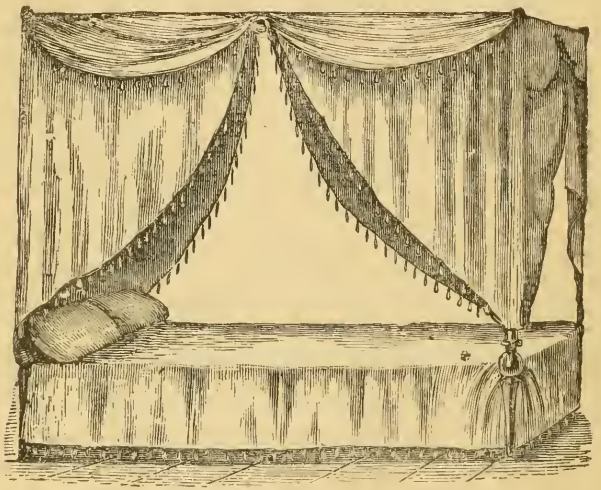
the residence of Colonel Bassett, brother-in-law of Martha Washington. It stood in the room always occupied by Washington, and upon it John Custis, the only son of Mrs. Washington, died. Young Custis was aide-de-camp to Washington, who, at the time of his fatal illness, was at Yorktown. He arrived at Eltham "time enough," he wrote to Lafayette, "to see poor Mr. Custis breathe his last." He was very devoted to his stepson, and, turning to his young widow, he said: "From this hour I adopt your two younger children as my own." These were Eleanor Parke Custis, two years and a half old, and George Washington Parke Custis, about six months old; and, through the fatherly care of the great chief, they never had occasion to realize that they had been so early left orphans.

The two elegant mahogany chairs were once the property of Benjamin Harrison, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and were afterwards owned by his grandson, President Harrison. Another chair belonged to William Augustine Washington, one of the executors of Washington's will, and the antique mirror was owned by Washington's brother, Samuel Washington, of Harewood. A valuable contribution is one of Durand's rare engravings of Stuart's Washington.

THE ROOM IN WHICH WASHINGTON DIED.

Passing from the West Virginia room, through a small hall, the apartment in which Washington died is entered. It is a medium sized bedroom. On the right is a large fireplace, in which is observed the Washing-

ton coat of arms. On the left is a dressing-room and an ample linen closet; on the south are two large windows which may be slid back into the wall, and reach to the floor. They open upon the top of the portico, and command a beautiful view. The bedstead is the one upon which Washington died, and the bed is dressed as it was during his lifetime.



The drapery, presented by Mrs. Bradley T. Johnson, hung in a chamber at Rose Hill, the seat of Thomas Johnson, first governor of Maryland, who, in the Continental Congress, nominated George Washington for commander-in-chief of the army. There are here two gilt brackets and a gilt-framed mirror matching them, with a superb inlaid secretary used by General Wash-

ington at Mount Vernon—all entrusted, through the Vice-Regent of Virginia, to the care of the Ladies' Association by Gen. G. W. P. Custis Lee. The old bureau, which the zealous public has deprived of its last brass knob, was at Washington's headquarters on the Hudson, and was presented by Mrs. Hasbroucke.

The small stands and the stately andirons in the fireplace were in use in this room at the time of Washington's death. The dimity chair-cover was embroidered by his niece, Frances Washington Ball, and presented by her grandson's wife, the Vice-Regent of Virginia. The portrait of Washington was copied by Elder from an original miniature, which was owned by Washington's brother, Colonel Charles Washington, and is now in the family of a grand-nephew, Judge Ball, of Virginia. On the wall is an interesting relic—a newspaper published in New York, in which was the first announcement in that State of the death of Washington. Its decorous utterances of most profound grief are quite Addisonian, and illustrate the stilted ceremonial of the times.

MERCANTILE ADVERTISER, N. Y.,
SATURDAY, *Dec 21st*, 1799.

We feel a ſenſation of ſorrow which no language of ours can ſufficiently deſcribe when we record the diſtreſſing intelligence that

On Saturday, the 14th inſtant,
Died Suddenly
At his ſeat, Mount Vernon, in the State of Virginia,
GEORGE WASHINGTON,
Lieutenant-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States of America,
"A Corinthian Pillar in the Temple of Immortality!"
Mature in Years,
Covered with Glory,
and rich in the affections of the American people.

(Reader, whoever thou art, in whatever part of the world reſident, mourn with us the death of the friend of liberty and man; the ſaviour of his country, the defender of her rights—the warrior, the ſtateſman, and the private citizen; who never ſwerved from the paths of rectitude in the tour of duty, never arrogated to himſelf unwarrantable power, though placed in ſituations to command it, and whoſe every action tended to the public good, from his early days to the end of his exiſtence. It were in vain for us to attempt to delineate all the virtues of this great man in a newspaper paragraph; to thoſe more acquainted with the particulars of his life we reſign the taſk of enumerating each particular excellence, but to us it belongs to record in general terms the good qualities ſo univerſally reſpected, whether in public or retired life. In the field, in the cabinet, or aſ a private individual of the community, he commanded univerſal admiration and eſteem. In every ſenſe of the word, he was a man whoſe like we ſhall probably never again be permitted to ſee, and whoſe virtues will be held in everlaſting remembrance.)

The following is the most particular account of this mournful event we have yet seen:

Extract of a letter from Alexandria, dated December 15th.

"I mention to you the truly melancholy event of the death of our much beloved General George Washington. He made his exit last night between the hours of 11 and 12, after a ſhort but painful illneſs of 23 hours. The diſorder of which he died is by ſome called Crupe, by others an Inflammatory Quinſey, a diſorder lately ſo mortal among children in this place, and I believe not until this year known to attack perſons at the age of maturity.

"My information I have from Dr. Dick, who was called in at a late hour. Alexandria is making arrangements to ſhow its high eſteem for him. We are all cloſe to our houſes, and act as we ſhould do if one of our family had departed. The bells are to toll daily until he is buried, which will not be until Wedneſday or Thurſday. He died perfectly in his ſenſes, and from Dr. Dick's account perfectly reſigned. He informed them he had no fear of death, that his affairs were in good order, that he had made his will, and that his public buſineſs was but two days behindhand."

Virginia has very appropriately selected this room in which her greatest son died. A small stairway leads to the room above, used by the

WIDOW OF WASHINGTON

from the day of his death until May, 1801, a year and a half afterwards, when she, too, died.

This room has one piece of the original furniture, the small plain mahogany wash-stand; but it has recently been very elegantly refitted by Mrs. Mitchell, Vice-Regent from Wisconsin. Every piece of furniture has been reproduced in mahogany. The carpet, of home manufacture, has been replaced by rugs, made in this country in the style of those days. The old gay calico bed-hangings are copied in softest woollen cretonne, and lined with rose-colored rep-silk. These hangings are finished with fringe and caught with heavy cord and tassels; the elegant chairs are upholstered with the same material; the pillow-cases are reproduced with an embroidered crest, and the initials, M. W. Upon a Bible-stand in the room is the coat of arms, with motto, "*Exitus acta probat*," and on one of the bureaux is a work-box and a pair of small white vases, decorated with a simple spray of rose-colored hyacinth.

Martha Washington was a woman distinguished even among those dames of strong character whom the trials of the Revolution developed. She was beautiful, intelligent, dignified and practical. She was often with her husband at headquarters, and in after time said she had heard the first and the last gun of every campaign during the seven years' struggle. The soldiers were devoted to her, never forgetting how she cheered and encouraged them at Valley Forge, at Morristown, and at West Point. A model Virginia housewife, presiding over her generous board with a gracious charm peculiar to her, and through which she won the admiration of all who knew her as wife of the Chief Magistrate. As

wife and mother her tenderness and devotion crown her with the true glory of womanhood.

During the eighteen months that she survived her beloved husband the lonely mourner passed most of her time by the window of her room, with often no other companion than her pet cat, for the convenience of which a corner of the door had been cut off, enabling the dumb friend to come and go at will. There, in a room without fire, even in winter, but tenderly cared for by domestics, she sat by the window, because from it alone could she command a view of her husband's resting place:

> "Gazing through the morning's light,
> At noon-tide, looking fondly down—
> Peering forth in sombre night—
> Or when the leaves are green or brown;
> Or when the snow soft shrouds the mound,
> Where lies the sleeper under ground."

> "Looking and longing ever there, with faith
> That in some golden hour, his spirit, robed
> In drapery of light, and winged with love,
> Should come to her with blessings in his eyes,
> And sweetly feed, with old-time rapturous smiles,
> Her famished soul. O, wondrous, wondrous Love!
> Which dieth not with death, nor yet hath life
> Save with the living. Thou Mystery of Universe!"

There are five small rooms on the third floor. These rooms, which are half stories, are lighted by dormer windows. One has been furnished by a Connecticut lady, and contains a beautifully carved old-time bedstead, two elegant chairs, a bureau, and a quaint shaving-glass, all of which are solid mahogany.

The linen in this room was spun and woven by an

MOUNT VERNON MANSION, 1838.

West Front.

old lady from that State, sixty-five years ago. Another room has been selected for the District of Columbia, by its Vice-Regent, and furnished by citizens of the District. Of the furniture, two chairs once belonged to Washington, the bureau was owned by the Calvert family, and the bedstead and looking-glass are a hundred years old, the latter having been in use at "Mt. Airy," the home of the Tayloe family in Virginia.

CUPOLA.

From the small square hall is a winding stairway to the cupola, which is octagonal.

The view from this elevation is sweeping and grand. The Potomac seems almost to surround the estate in its majestic bend. Fort Washington appears to have drawn nearer. Looking west, the Virginia hills are beautifully defined, and three-quarters of a mile away is seen the old porter's lodge, which marks the boundary of the present estate. Leading thither, from the lawn gate, is an avenue, spoken of by Lossing as being a pleasant drive in former days. From this the undergrowth has been recently removed and the trees trimmed, so as to leave an unobstructed view of the lodge; and it is proposed to soon restore the drive, by gravelling this avenue.

WEST LAWN.

Leaving the house from the west door, the interest that Washington personally bestowed upon domestic claims is fully realized. All that could contribute to

the happiness of his dependants or the pleasure of his friends was a matter of conscience with him. Agriculture in its higher and lower branches was an endless source of delight to him.

From either extension on the west side there is a curved colonnade; on the right hand is the "Office," a house a story and a half high, a room of which was also used to cook the great dinners in, as the appliances of a large fireplace indicate. Opposite is the family kitchen, where the daily meals of the family, white and black, were prepared.

The immense fireplace, the crane, the low Dutch range, the large hominy mortar, show that the requirements of the cook were neither small nor unheeded. In this room, also in tents outside, a good and a reasonable lunch can be had by the visitors, while from a stand near the door views of Mount Vernon are sold. But a step outside the kitchen is the well from which it was the pride of "West Ford," an old servant of the estate, to hand to visitors a cup of cold water. The last of these servitors has long since gone the way of all the earth. Near this side of the kitchen-door are the "milk-house," "meat-house," and "wash-house," while on the east slope stood the "summer-house," and the old "ice-house," built with its "spring-house" beneath. These having fallen into ruin, it would be in excellent taste to restore them. On the west, close to the kitchen, is the "butler's house," at the corner of which stands the famous magnolia grandiflora, brought by Washington from the banks of the James, and

planted by him in the year of his death, 1799. It has attained unusual proportions for the climate, and yearly puts forth its creamy bloom. The leaves of this tree have been taken as mementos to every part of the civilized globe.

The west lawn is a driving park, entered through the arched gateway at the end of the avenue from the porter's lodge; the curved course serves not only for a general approach to the house, but being more than a half mile in circumference, in former times afforded distance for a pleasant ride, and the thicket of trees on either side gave grateful shade, and it was not infrequently used for children or invalids of the household.

Through this gateway Washington brought his fair bride to Mount Vernon; and beneath the same arch, forty years afterwards, slowly filed the long train of mourners that attended his funeral.

On each side of the entrance is a large mound—a favorite lawn-ornament of that day—and the trees of the thicket were all selected by Washington, many of them having been planted by him when a young man. His interest in them was unceasing. They are hemlock, Spanish chestnut, poplar, gum, mulberry, aspen, pine, beech, linden, mimosa, wild cherry and Kentucky coffee-tree, brought from that State by order of Thomas Jefferson—all now in a flourishing condition.

FLOWER GARDEN.

On the right of the lawn is the flower-garden; on the left the vegetable garden. Each of these was flanked by a large orchard.

Not far from the entrance of this driving park and lawn, are two octagonal rifle-towers, built very early for defence against Indians, as their embrasures for riflemen indicate.

Four magnificent trees, each of its kind perfect, guard the entrance to the flower garden. Two are ash and two are poplar, or the American tulip tree. They were planted by Washington with exact measurement, and have in a century done wonderful credit to the early care he gave them.

Immediately within the flower-garden are four very large calycanthus trees, or sweet shrub. These were sent to Washington by Thomas Jefferson as a great novelty of that day. When they were a generation old, John Augustine Washington named them after the four Presidents, who, in regular rotation, succeeded his illustrious uncle—Adams, Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe.

The flower-garden is bordered and divided by hedges of box, (*buxus suffruticosa*,) preserved in the exact designs in which they were planted by Washington. Some of them seem to have been intended for initials of names and others Masonic emblems.

Bordering the main walk in this garden is a species of hydrangea, which was brought over by Lafayette in his visit in 1824, and by him planted in his old friend's garden. This came originally from the grave of Napoleon. It is a hardy, beautiful flowering shrub.

Mr. W. W. Corcoran, who, as all the world knows, is best pleased when doing a good and a graceful thing,

has given to the Association a large number of foreign evergreens—Austrian pine, Swiss pine, Norway fir, European silver fir, golden arbor vitæ; also, a handsome variety of rhododendrons from the same firm in London, whose exhibit of that shrub received such merited attention at our Centennial Exhibition. This valuable contribution was planted under the supervision of Mr. Wm. Saunders, the eminent horticulturist. The garden contains crape myrtles, shrub magnolias, century plants, intermixed with the simplest modest flowers, from daisy to lily. Large numbers of the rose called "Mary Washington" are yearly raised and readily sold; some years as many as three hundred. This rose, a seedling raised by General Washington and named for his mother, is a delicate tea-rose, and quite an acceptable souvenir to the visitor. At the end of the central walk is the new greenhouse, built and partially supplied by an appropriation from Congress. This stands on the site of the original Washington conservatory, which was destroyed by fire December, 1835. On that disastrous night very few of the rare plants were saved, among them a large bearing lemon tree, a century plant, and a Sago palm. Of these now there only can be seen part of the body of the cherished old palm, though there is a hardy young growth from it.

In the greenhouse the visitor has opportunity to select a remembrance of Mount Vernon, and will have the satisfaction of knowing that the small sum expended for a bouquet or plant increases the income of the Association.

SOURCES OF REVENUE.

The entrance fee is one of the chief sources of revenue to the Association, and is embraced in the fare paid for the trip to and from Mount Vernon. A like small amount is required from those who enter the west lawn, or either side, by land. The profits of the lunch-table add to the income; also, the sale of photographic views, of "Mount Vernon Sketches," by Mrs. Greatorex, of the "Visitors' Guide," and of copies of the "Will of Washington." The original will, which was written entirely by himself, and bears his autograph at the bottom of each page, can now be seen among the records of the County Court of Fairfax.

This will is dated July 9, 1799, and was doubtless written in the summer of that year. It was drawn without the aid of a lawyer, and is one of the most remarkable papers of its kind on record. It was admitted to probate in the county of Fairfax, January 20, 1800, being presented in open court by three of the executors. On March 22, 1853, the Virginia legislature granted to Alfred Moss, county clerk, the privilege of lithographing the will, but for some reason he never carried out his design. In July, 1861, when the Confederate army retreated from Fairfax Court-house, Mr. Moss carefully enveloped the will, with this indorsement:

"The original will of General George Washington.
"Belongs to the records of Fairfax County Court. To be returned to me, or any one legally authorized to receive it.

"ALFRED MOSS,
"*Clerk Fairfax County Court.*"

With other county records it was then sent to Rich-

mond and committed to the secretary of the Commonwealth, in whose care it remained until 1865, when it was returned to Fairfax county. From age and frequent handling it has become indistinct and mutilated, and on account of its condition the court at its November term, 1865, passed the following order: "It appearing to the court that the original will of General George Washington, of Mount Vernon, has been much worn and mutilated from frequent handling, and that it is liable to further injury from the same cause, it is ordered that the clerk of this court purchase, at the expense of the county, a suitable case, in which he is directed to deposit the said will." This arrangement gives the curious the opportunity—which is often improved—of seeing the last will and testament of Washington.

In 1868 the will was copied and published, as it was too much worn to admit of its being lithographed, and thousands of these authenticated copies have been given to the Association by W. W. Corcoran. To this pamphlet, which contains many interesting historical facts, I am indebted for the above data.

Lossing's handsome volume, "The Home of Washington," can be bought here. This work is gracefully dedicated by the author:

"To his
Patriotic Countrywomen,
by whose efforts
The Home and Tomb of Washington
have been rescued from
Decay."

Many little incidents detailed in its pages give the domestic character of Washington, and its concise descriptions of the manners and customs of a century ago are clear and life-like.

The products of the farm, the raising of fine cattle, the cultivation of fruit of all kinds, especially new varieties, are, more than all other means, relied on to keep the estate in the order required by the "Act to authorize the purchase of Mount Vernon," which act passed the Virginia legislature unanimously March 17, 1856.

The amount paid for the estate of two hundred acres was two hundred thousand dollars.

Of this sum $68,494.59 were a contribution from Edward Everett, the proceeds of his great lecture upon the "Life and Character of Washington," and his writings for the *New York Ledger*.

At present the condition of the farm is as follows: Peach orchard of eighteen acres, just coming into full bearing; also, a mixed orchard of nectarines, plums, apples, cherries, and apricots. Four acres are devoted to the kitchen-garden; twenty-seven acres to different varieties of grain, leaving as a lawn ten acres; fifty in wood-land; ninety-one for pasturage. The Superintendent has labored to make it a model farm, giving especial attention to fine stock. Notwithstanding these numerous sources of revenue, the outlay is yearly very large to keep even in repair such an estate and to guard it as carefully as required.

Among the latest improvements are the repairing of the wharf, at a cost of nearly $1,000; the re-roofing of the old barn, which was last repaired under the direc-

tion of Washington in 1799; the restoration of the mason-work at the east and west entrances, the porters' lodges, and the gates.

SUPERINTENDENT.

It will be seen that the office of Superintendent is by no means a sinecure. Not only all sources of revenue, improvements, and expenditures come under his personal and responsible supervision, but the reception of guests during the year, numbering not unfrequently two hundred daily, devolves upon him. The Association may be congratulated that it receives in its Superintendent's labors the services of a gentleman of urbanity, patience, and integrity; and the resolution of the Council expressing thanks "for the fidelity and success" with which he discharges his duties fully indicates that his untiring efforts are appreciated.

Col. J. McHenry Hollingsworth is a descendant from distinguished Revolutionary ancestors, and was an officer in the United States Army during the Mexican War. It would be difficult to select a gentleman more peculiarly adapted for the position, endowed as he is with a profound reverence for the character of Washington.

THE COUNCIL,

consisting of the Regent and Vice-Regents, meets yearly in May or June at Mount Vernon, to transact all business connected with the estate, such as auditing accounts, making contracts, ordering improvements, receiving the report of the Superintendent. In addition, there is a joint session, when the Council and the

Advisory Board selected by the ladies meet with the Board of Visitors appointed by the State of Virginia to overlook the condition of the estate and to report if the provisions of the purchase are complied with.

MOUNT VERNON'S FUTURE.

Doubtless the pilgrimage to Mount Vernon is yet in its incipient state. As the old homestead recovers from its long neglect; as intended restorations and suggested improvements are yearly made; as the contributions of interesting relics increase—and especially when it becomes generally understood that a clause in the act passed by the Virginia legislature secures this spot forever sacred to Washington—will the interest be more universal and the visitors increase.

Clause 4th of the act is as follows:

"The said property herein authorized to be purchased by the said Mount Vernon Ladies' Association of the Union shall be forever held by it sacred to the Father of his Country; and if, from any cause, the said Association shall cease to exist, the property owned by said Association shall revert to the Commonwealth of Virginia, sacred to the purposes for which it was originally purchased."

During the Centennial year the number of visitors was forty-five thousand—from two hundred to nine hundred per diem.

Although the sentiment prompting by far the larger number to visit the home and tomb of Washington is that of reverential admiration for the chieftain's life and character, yet this class of visitors are occasionally shocked by the out-spoken, would-be witty utterances

of the thoughtless and the coarse, even upon a spot that should, at least, command respectful observance.

Some persons, in their eagerness for relics, have knocked off the stucco ornaments of the walls, broken the frames of the old mirrors, and injured rare shrubbery which has been imported and presented to the Association at a large expense.

PROTEST!

Lawless people should understand that authority is vested in the Superintendent, by the State of Virginia, to protect the premises and punish offenders, as the reading of the following warning, which is posted in conspicuous places, indicates:

PLACARD.

"Visitors are respectfully informed that they cannot be allowed to injure the shrubs, flowers, or herbs."

A little reflection would induce visitors to be more considerate of those attached to the estate who, they may be assured, desire to be obliging and kind to all.

Every American citizen should feel a personal care of what is a national heritage, and look upon whoever wears a Mount Vernon badge as commissioned to guard this possession.

The Council, at their last meeting, (1878,) authorized the adoption of a uniform for the employés, consisting of a navy-blue blouse, with brass buttons, leather belt and buckle, and a black hat with the name *Mount Vernon* in gilt letters on a blue ribbon band.

of each passing steamer, as it reverberates from hill to hill, but re-echoes the voice of all ages and all people in doing honor to such greatness as is found in the life of George Washington.

"Slowly sailing, slowly sailing, hushed the music, mute the mirth,
Men and maidens standing reverent on some broad altar's hearth.
* * * * * * *
"Silently before Mount Vernon, silently our boat glides on,
Hushed its iron heart's deep panting past the Tomb of Washington;
Truest, worthiest act of worship that degenerate earth now knows.
Inmost soul here recognizing all the mighty debt she owes.

"Oh, my country, art thou paling—losing all thy young day's glow?
Can'st thou lose thy first love's glory, and thy hero's worth still know?
Patriot hearts, do doubts still haunt you, threatening thoughts come crowding on?
Sail with me down broad Potomac, past the Tomb of Washington;

"Feel the impress of his greatness stamped upon the Nation's heart,
See each manly brow uncovered, lovely lips in awe apart;
Fear not while this reverence lingers with its clear, warm, hallowing light;
This must fade from brow and bosom ere can come our country's night."

[*Mrs. R. Cary Long, Literary World, Feb.* 17, 1849.

This expression of respect was first given by the commander of an English fleet—Commodore Gordon—who, when passing Mount Vernon on the 24th of August, 1814, ordered that the bell of his flag-ship, *Sea-Horse*, should be tolled. Human greatness never received a

higher recognition than this act of reverence. Our own countrymen are less demonstrative than foreigners, who are never seen with covered heads before the Tomb of Washington.

THANKS.

To "The Southern Matron," and "The Northern Orator," first belong thanks unceasing for the purchase and care of the home and tomb of Washington. To the Regents and Vice-Regents for their unflagging energy and devotion is due a second and increasing debt of grateful approval.

View of Fort Washington from the Piazza at Mount Vernon.

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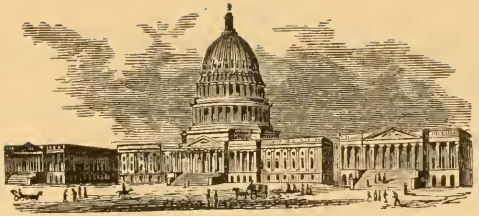

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EXECUTIVE MANSION, Pennsylvania Avenue, between Fifteenth and Seventeenth sts.

STATE DEPARTMENT, Seventeenth street, between F st. and New York Avenue.

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INTERIOR DEPARTMENT, F st. between Seventh and Ninth sts.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT, E st. between Seventh and Eighth sts.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, Freedman's Bank Building, 1507 Pennsylvania Avenue.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, on the Island, opposite Thirteenth st.

PENSION BUREAU, corner Pennsylvania avenue and Twelfth st.

PATENT OFFICE, F st. between Seventh and Ninth sts.

CONGRESSIONAL PRINTING OFFICE, corner North Capitol and H. sts.

NATIONAL OBSERVATORY, E st. north, opposite Twenty-third st. west.

NAVY YARD, on Eastern Branch, foot of Eighth st.

ARSENAL, foot of Four-and-a-half st. southwest.

Coast Survey Building, New Jersey Avenue, south of Capitol.

Smithsonian Institution, on the Island, opposite Tenth street.

Congressional Cemetery, one mile east of Capitol.

Washington Monument, Fifteenth st.

U. S. Botanic Gardens, between First and Third sts west.

Masonic Temple, corner Ninth and F sts.

National College, Kendall Green.

Providence Hospital, corner Second st. east and D st. north.

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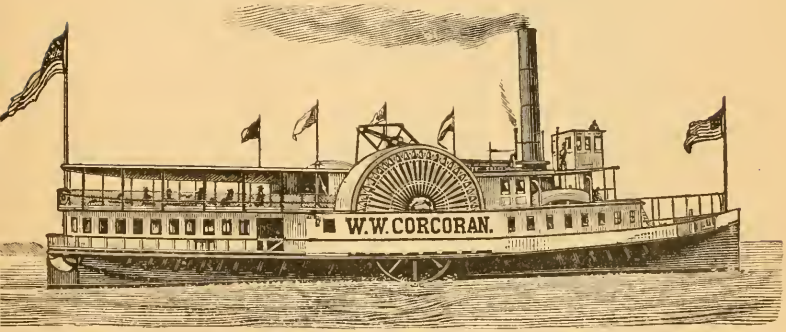

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27. A room used as a guest chamber in Washington's time.
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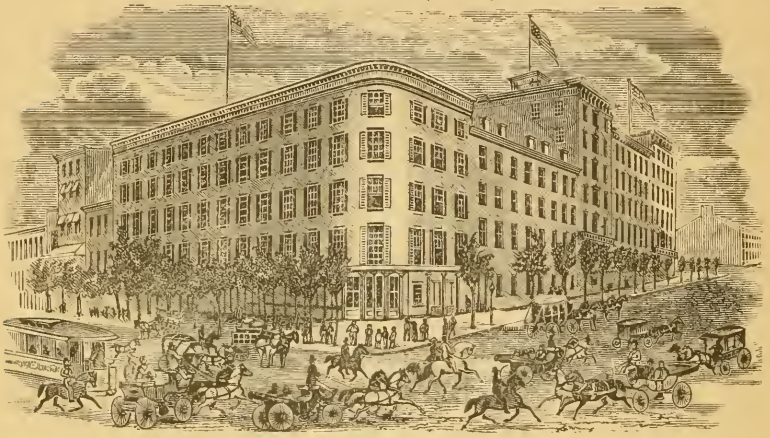

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